



PRESS RELEASE

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August Fruit Report

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 14, 2006 - - Pennsylvania's fruit production is expected to vary based on crop, variety, and location, according to the Pennsylvania field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Apples: Pennsylvania's production is forecast at 450 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year's crop, but up 11 percent from 2004. According to apple producers, Pennsylvania apples are looking good. They expect fair to good yields and report, as of August 1, receiving adequate rainfall for sizing. Disease has been average this season, while insect pressure has been reported as higher. The York harvest is anticipated to be lower while the Fuji and Red Delicious crop is expected to be larger. Growers are currently harvesting Ginger Gold, Rambo, and Paula Red. The first U.S. forecast of the 2006 season is 9.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent lower than the 2004 crop.

Grapes: Pennsylvania's production forecast is 78,000 tons, down 13 percent from last year and down 10 percent from 2004. Growers in Erie County, Pennsylvania's largest grape producing county, report that the crop was affected by frosts in late May. Some growers are reporting a total loss while others are reporting a full crop. Vineyards further away from Lake Erie were the hardest hit. Growers are reporting average insect pressure and very high disease pressure. Wine grape growers throughout the Commonwealth anticipate harvesting a very good crop of grapes. Hot, dry conditions of late are conducive to a good crop. U.S. grape production is forecast at 6.72 million tons, down 14 percent from 2005 but 8 percent higher than 2004.

Peaches: Pennsylvania peach producers expect to harvest 28,500 tons of peaches from their orchards in 2006. This estimate is down 1,000 tons from the July 1 forecast. Most growers reported a good peach crop with average to large size and excellent flavor. Quality is reported as being very good except in a few cases where hail from a early July storm damaged fruit. Approximately 30 percent of the PA crop was harvested as of August 1. Growers are currently harvesting Sun High, Loring, White Lade, and Red Haven. The U.S. peach production forecast is 1.1 million tons, 11 percent below 2005.

Pears: The Pennsylvania crop is forecast at 5,200 tons, up 148 percent from the frost damaged crop of 2005 and up 16 percent from 2004. If realized this crop will be the largest in the last 10 years. U.S. pear production is forecast at 835,310 tons, up 1 percent from last year but down 5 percent from 2004.

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